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East Germany

COUNTRY _____ REPORT NO. _____

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

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EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

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DATE OF CONTENT 17 December 1953 to 1 January 195425X1C
DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 19 January 1954

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. Between 17 December 1953 and 1 January 1954, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne in Rathenow was still occupied by 800 to 900 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia. Only driving school and maintenance work on vehicles was observed.

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2. The Pionier Kaserne was still occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia. On 21 December and 1 January, about 30 artillery pieces, mostly light 76.2-mm field guns, were observed. About 120 soldiers were engaged in close-order drill and fatigue duty. On 23 December, 15 trucks towing 9x76.2-mm field guns entered the installation. The trucks probably came from the direction of Brandenburg

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3. The Infanterie Kaserne was occupied by 600 to 700 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, some with artillery insignia. Every 2 or 3 days after 20 December, 3 to 5 trucks each carrying about 30 soldiers with luggage left the installation. The same number of soldiers who also carried luggage arrived at the installation during this period. Groups of 60 to 80 soldiers practiced pistol and carbine firing on the target range near the installation.

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4. The Ziethen Kaserne was guarded by sentries with red-bordered black and red epaulets. There was unusual traffic of officers. The construction of a building for quartering officers' dependents was under way in the billeting area. Vehicles from all other barracks installations were overhauled at the motor vehicle repair shop.

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5. On the evening of 26 December, 8 x 120-mm mortars model 1938, 8 trucks, [redacted] and about 150 troops with red-bordered black epaulets were loaded on a train of eight boxcars at the Rathenow - Nord railroad station. The troops came from the Infanterie Kaserne. A 10:30 p.m., the train left toward the Rathenow main station. At about 5 p.m. on 28 December, about 150 soldiers carrying carbines and luggage, probably replacements, were unloaded at the Rathenow-Nord railroad station and marched to the Infanterie Kaserne. 2

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1. [redacted] Comment. Following the report [redacted] in early December 1953, no change has been observed in the distribution of components of the IV Arty Corps in Rathenow. [redacted] Records available indicate, however, that the 18th How Arty Brig (US) at the Pionier Kaserne was equipped with 122-mm field howitzers and probably 160-mm mortars rather than 76.2-mm artillery pieces. Possibly units of the 65th Mort Brig (US) from the Infanterie Kaserne held firing practice by rotation outside the post.

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2. [redacted] Comment. The weapons [redacted] indicate that units of the 65th Mort Brig (US) were entrained. As the soldiers unloaded on 28 December 1953 carried arms, they probably were not recruits. The replacement movement terminated in early December 1953 as has been repeatedly reported. Thus, it is believed that the soldiers observed belonged to units of the above brigade which returned to the Infanterie Kaserne.

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